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Brother Tells Of Visiting Reds' Captive in Peiping

HONG KONG, July 21 (AP).

—John Downey, of New Britain, Conn., serving a life sentence in a Red China prison, is living on hope, his brother, William, said today on arrival from Peiping.

But the Chinese he talked to during the week he spent in the Red capital gave him no indication that John will be released, the brother told reporters.

He said that despite requests through the Chinese Red Cross, no Chinese government official would receive him or listen to his appeal. The communists jailed John Downey in 1952 on espionage charges.

"But my brother shows no sign of despair," William Downey said. "He is quite cheerful, was very happy to see me and appears to be in very good health. He is living in hopes that he will be released."

Mr. Downey said he asked permission to visit Richard G. Fecteau, of Boston, who was sentenced to twenty years at the same time as John, but the request was refused. He said his brother sees Mr. Fecteau occasionally.

Mr. Fecteau and John

Downey — both civilians — were captured when a United States Air Force plane in which they were traveling crashed on a flight from Japan to Korea

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